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## THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1876.

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## CHROMOLITHOGRAPH OF A PLAN OF VICTORIA, HONGKONG.

## FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PEAK.

## THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS (Designed expressly for the Work).

## MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, AND THE ISLAND OF FORMOSA.

## THE COAST OF CHINA, AND THE NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE—HONGKONG.

besides other local information and statistics collected to date of publication, tending to make this Work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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## The Daily Press

HONGKONG, MARCH 19th, 1876.

## A RESUME of the report of the Medical Missionary Society in China for 1874 cannot fail to make a strong impression in favor of the great and beneficent work they are engaged in.

The Founder of Christianity during his sojourn on earth went about as a physician and healer of the sick, and it seems to us that the combination of preacher and doctor is a fitting and happy imitation in modern days of the practice of the great Exemplar. While healing the infirmities of the poor and feeble leviathan, the opportunity occurs of also ministering to the mind of the sufferer, and if the latter endeavor falls altogether, the patient is pretty sure to go away grateful for the alleviation of pain, and feeling less prejudiced against the Christian and the Christian's God. Centuries ago Origen declared that "in nothing do men more nearly approach the gods than in giving health to men," and most of the Chinese who have been delivered, as numbers of them have by Dr. KERR, of diseases and disorders from which they had suffered for years, doubtless regard their benefactor with unqualified admiration and esteem. And he has won it deservedly, and with it that of his countrymen. Many of the operations recorded are most difficult, and call for the exercise of the greatest nerve and consummate judgment. One or two cases are also, we believe, unique in the annals of surgery.

The confidence the Chinese repose in his skill is evidently unbounded. An instance of this is afforded in the fact that an old woman, from Pwan-yi, both of whose legs had come off about the middle—a case of spontaneous amputation—had them preserved in lime and took them to the hospital with the request that Dr. KERR would splice them on again. "It was," says the Doctor, "a great disappointment to her when I had to confess that there were limits to my skill, and that this was a case I could not undertake."

During the year the total number of out-patients relieved was 15,534, and of those 6,293 were new patients. The number of in-patients admitted to the hospital was 1,105, of whom 889 were males and 217 females.

No less than 229 surgical operations were performed in the twelve months, and many of these were very delicate and dangerous ones. An unusual number of persons, the report states, were under treatment for the evil habit of opium-smoking. Altogether 302 persons were admitted, and most of them came from the districts of Ku-in and Ku-ning, in the department of Shu-ching. The desire to get rid of the habit has spread through that region, according to the reports of those who have been treated in the hospital, and Dr. KERR says that he is informed that a still greater number will come during the present year. Two of the opium patients, it is reported, were women. Opium-smoking, it is not, therefore, by any means, a new or less than its sister vice of drunkenness, confined to

the male sex. It is gratifying to find that there is a wish on the part of some of its slaves to get rid of the infernal yoke. Like drunkenness, it is difficult to shake off this injurious habit, for spite of all assertions to the contrary, there can be no doubt it has a deleterious effect when indulged in to any appreciable extent, and there are few who are wise enough to limit themselves to a strictly moderate use of it. It is in the abuse of the drug that the evil chiefly lies. But it is a thing to beware of, for it is well nigh as seductive to the Chinaman as the wine cup to the Caucasian. And both have their devotees, and both forward them too frequently with utter ruin. Yet neither can be put down by legislation, and while all benevolent people must mourn the havoc wrought by both, they will do well to advocate remedial rather than prohibitory measures, which invariably defeat their own object.

The Medical Missionary Society do not lose sight of what may be termed the reason d'être of their existence—the spread of Christian doctrine. Religious services are conducted by the Rev. C. F. PUNSONG and a native evangelist, Sr. I. F. I. but the patients are not expected to attend them. It is perfectly optional whether they do so or not, for the Society wisely declines to force religion upon any one. They are not deficient in zeal, but it is well tempered by discretion and experience. They frankly confess they have no converts to report during the year; but who will assert that they have not broken much false ground, prepared the way for others to complete the work? The females are visited in their wards, and are kindly talked to, and an interest shown in them that they cannot put down to any mercenary or unworthy motives. They are not the less likely to ultimately believe and profess a religion which presents itself in so merciful, so tender, and so unassuming a garb. Medical Missions are useful and active pioneers of Truth and science. Their chief guardian, however, is "the luxury of doing good," for the emolumenta they receive are in no way compensatory for their arduous and difficult work. It may be some gratification also to them to know that they have deserved and won the praise of men, and that their good deeds are written "in records that defy the tooth of time." We cordially wish them success in the prosecution of their humane and noble endeavors to mitigate pain and suffering among the masses of China, and hope that ere long Chinese exclusiveness and prejudices will melt away in the light of the practical benevolence that prompts the establishment of missions for the cure of "the ill that flesh is heir to," as well as the dissemination of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Band of H.M. 80th Regiment will perform, this evening, the following programme:—

March "Gavotte".....Soprano.  
"Serenade".....Soprano.  
"Faint Hearted".....Soprano.  
"The Girl of the Year".....Soprano.  
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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Legislative Council met yesterday afternoon. There were present:

THE HON. THE GOVERNOR.  
THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.  
THE HON. THE CHIEF JUSTICE.  
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The Clerk of Councils (Mr. Lister) read the minutes of last meeting, which were confirmed.

THE HON. THE GOVERNOR said, before proceeding to the ordinary business, he had to inform the Council that a Board of Inquiry had been appointed to report upon the Prayers Committee.

The Committee consisted of the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Acting Colonial Treasurer, Messrs. BRYCE, LORRIMER, and the Surveyor-General.

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